



February 2007

"EMS Currents"

Sacramento Metro Fire District's EMS Division Newsletter...Will you make a difference today?

Special Interest Articles:

- New Fire Academy Class 07-1
- County Coroners
- Incumbent Paramedic Training
- No Diversion Policy
- EMS Cartoon

"Service to your country starts at home and grows in your towns and communities until one day a nation is borne"

George Washington



New Fire Academy Class 07-1

By: Steve Cantelme

The District would like to welcome the new Fire Academy class 07-1 which started in January with 18 EMT I's and 6 paramedics. The new recruits should complete the 16-week fire academy and graduate the latter part of May. Immediately after graduation, the recruits will begin a one-week EMS refresher training course before starting their shift assignments as EMT I's and paramedics.

Once the 18 EMT I's complete one year of experience in the field they will be reassigned to days to begin an 8-month ARC/Metro paramedic program. FF/P Craig Henderson will be the lead Metro instructor for the District and the point of contact for all Metro firefighters/students.

County Coroners.....

Contributed by Eng. Mark Schairer

The Sacramento County Coroner is tasked as the responsible agency for responding to deaths that occur within Sacramento County, however not all counties are the same. In Placer and Sutter Counties, the Sheriff's office acts as the county coroner so instead of a "Placer or Sutter Coroner" arriving at your scene, you will see a deputy respond to deaths that occur in those counties.

So how does this affect you?

When you notify Fire Dispatch of a 1055 "natural" or request Sheriff for an "unnatural", Fire Dispatch very often requests Sacramento County resources including the Sacramento Coroner. Once the Sacramento Coroner discovers that the death occurred in another county, the county having jurisdiction is contacted causing a delay in response. For the Metro resources on scene this means a longer scene time as you wait for a Sutter or Placer deputy to respond. If you know the death occurred in another county then request that county's coroner early to avoid any delay in their response and a possible prolonged scene time for Metro resources.

***“One today is worth
two tomorrows”***
Benjamin Franklin

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Incumbent Paramedic Training

By: EMS Staff

The first Metro incumbent paramedic-training program will begin late this spring with about ten Metro students scheduled to attend. The program is rigorous and will require Metro students to be reassigned to days for a large part of the training. Like most paramedic training programs there are four phases - pre-requisite, didactic, clinical and a field internship phase.

We hope to deliver this training annually so anyone interested in becoming a future paramedic for the district should look forward to a late spring start-up every year.

No Diversion Policy for Placer County

By: Stephen Cantelme

Placer County EMS has announced that they are going to a “no diversion” policy beginning June 1, 2007. The two primary Placer County hospitals that will be impacted by this change are Sutter Roseville and Kaiser Roseville.

With this policy change, comes likely direction from SRH and KHR that after June 1 they may no longer accept patients diverted from Sac. County hospitals. Until that time, SRH will not deny Metro transports originally intended for MSJ. The Sacramento Hospital Council has scheduled meetings with Placer Co. EMS to discuss this issue and the impact it will have on Sac. County hospitals and transporting agencies. Hopefully the council will be able

influence this decision but in the mean time remember the following:

- Continue to expect questions from hospital staff asking why you transported the patient to their hospital
- Remain professional and courteous at all times - try not to discuss issues in front of the patient
- Continue to follow trauma protocols regarding hospital destinations
- Continue to transport patients to the hospital destination of their choice when appropriate
- Patient care is our priority at all times

